

# Rockgrinders Gazette



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## Club Rooms Opening Hours

Monday	9 am till 1 pm
Wednesday	9 am till 1 pm
Friday	5 pm till 9 pm
Saturday	9 am till 1 pm

February 2021 – Amethyst

## From the President

The Lapidary Club will be re-opening on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February for all vaccinated members. We will still be following strict Covid precautions such as signing in, wearing a mask at all times, and maintaining a 1.5 m distance from each other. Please have your food and drinks outside.

We are not having the booking system, so please be mindful of social distancing and the number of people in the grinding rooms when attending the club.

The club will be opening on Wednesdays and Saturdays only at the present time. At this stage, we are not opening Mondays.

Suzy Brandstater  
President

## 2021 Christmas BBQ

The end of year Christmas BBQ was well attended, and enjoyed by all present. Good food – good company – good atmosphere.

Thank you to all who attended, and helped out with setting up, bringing/cooking food etc, and cleaning up afterwards.



It was a great pleasure to have Bob in attendance at the Christmas BBQ, and we took the opportunity to thank and present him with a memento of his 30 years of service to the Club. Suzy presented Bob with a clock mounted on a polished slab of tiger's eye rock, cleverly crafted by Tim Twomey.



## Vale Ray Jones

25/12/45 – 5/2/2022

Last Saturday night, I received the sad news that our club Vice President, Ray Jones had passed away after a short but aggressive battle with cancer. He passed peacefully surrounded by his family. Ray joined the club in March 2014 after I invited him to our Open Day. He quickly embraced the club and not long after joining became the club Treasurer. Ray took on many other responsibilities within the club, being a duty officer on two Saturdays a month and in the last year running the silver casting.

Ray was always happy to help anyone out. He was generous with his time and knowledge. He was a cheerful person and well known for his sense of humour (not always appropriate) and his directness.

Ray's passing has left a gaping hole in our club and many of our lives.

Suzy Brandstater

### Funeral Notice

#### Ray Jones

25/12/45 – 5/2/2022

Saturday 12 February

11.00 am at

Tahmoor Uniting Church

110 Thirlmere Way

Tahmoor NSW 2573

All welcome





## Open Day

Please consider helping out with Open Day. Not only is open day a fun day out with opportunities to sell your creations, purchase unique hand-made jewellery items, good quality roughs, gems, equipment, and food, make new acquaintances, chat about your passion with other like-minded enthusiasts, it is also a chance to help the Club provide more opportunities, skills and activities for its members. Due to Covid lockdowns and insecurity, the last two years have proven to be a bit of a drought in this area, but now is the time to come out, and help out. Covid safe practices will be in operation, but that doesn't mean you have to stay home. Wear a mask, wash your hands, keep your distance – its common sense.

## OPEN DAY SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Open day is important to our club as it allows the public to find out about us, allows members to sell their items and provides money for our club equipment so please help.

We have a list of jobs that we need help with on the club notice board, **please add your name to the list. If more information is needed please ask Margaret.**

## Volunteers required from 7.30 am

We need volunteers for:

- 🔍 Flyer & Poster handout
- 🔍 Gate (QR code & hand sanitiser station)
- 🔍 Sign Placement
- 🔍 Club Stall help setting up & putting away
- 🔍 Raffle sales,
- 🔍 Cleaning prior to day
- 🔍 Cleaning at end of day
- 🔍 General Setting Up & spreading the word.

**Please help!**



## Hints and Tips

(<https://workingsilver.com/resource/hammers/>)

One of the tools a silversmith reaches for most often is their hammer. We all have our favourite one...or 3, but if you are just starting to build your tool collection, picking the right hammer for the job can be a daunting task. Below I will break down the 6 most common types of hammers used in silversmithing.

### Riveting Hammer



The wedge shaped end of this hammer is perfect for spreading the heads of rivets, while the flat end, which can have either a round or square cross section, is used for flattening out and refining rivet heads. The wedge end is also handy for creating interesting textures on metal.

### Chasing Hammer



The large face of this hammer can be used to strike the end of chasing tools and punches, but can also be used for direct contact with metal. Make sure, however, that if you're going to use it on the metal in your piece, that the head is smooth and not marked by hitting other tools. We recommend using a Brass Hammer for hitting chasing tools, punches, or any steel tool, because hitting steel with steel can shatter a tool! Chasing hammers can have either flat or a slightly rounded surface, which can act as a planishing hammer used for stretching and changing the shape of metal. Chasing hammers can easily be identified by their unique handles: bulbous at one end and thin where the head is attached. This style of handle increases hammer control and reduces hand fatigue.

### Ball Peen Hammer



Probably the most recognizable style of hammer, the ball peen hammer comes in countless shapes, sizes and weights. This is a great general purpose hammer with one flat face and one rounded face. It can be used for light forging, striking steel tools, spreading rivet heads,

and creating that lovely hammer texture. The size of the rounded face along with the weight of the hammer and the force of each strike will determine the size of each divot in your texture.

### Brass Hammer



Brass mallets are used for striking steel tools. When used with stamping tools, a brass mallet prevents unwanted movement because it has less reverberation than steel hammers. A brass mallet should be the only hammer you use on tools like a disk cutter because striking steel against steel with great force can actually shatter one of the tools.

### Rawhide Mallet



Rawhide mallets are much softer than steel or brass hammers and therefore will not mar or mark the surface of your metal. Ideal for flattening out sheet or wire as well as shaping rings and bangles on a mandrel, the rawhide head is extremely durable. It is made of leather that has been rolled into a cylinder shape and impregnated with shellac. This hammer is available in a wide variety of face diameters and sizes.

### Plastic Mallet



Plastic hammers are similar to rawhide mallets in that they will not mar or mark the surface of your metal. They come in a wide variety of shapes, sizes and styles. The plastic material is typically made from high density, non-porous nylon.

There is no universal hammer that will do it all, so we often find ourselves with quite the selection of hammers as silversmiths.

## January Birthdays – Garnet

Since there was no newsletter for January, we're wishing belated happy birthday wishes to our January-born members.

### Happy Birthday to:

Ron Bryant  
Susan Jones  
Julie Tremp  
Don Jones  
Philip Ager  
Rowan (Tim) Twomey

### Garnet

Those born in January are lucky to have the beautiful and diverse garnet as their birthstone. Garnets are commonly red but also come in an extraordinary range of beautiful colours, including orange, yellow, purple and vibrant green. There are even garnets that change colour from blue to purple in different lighting. Some believe the true value of the garnet birthstone is its power to bring the wearer good health, wealth and happiness.



COURTESY: NOVACIS LTD, HONG KONG (R&R RIGHT)

The name “garnet” originates from the medieval Latin *granatus*, meaning “pomegranate,” in reference to the similarity of the red colour. Garnets have been used since the Bronze Age as gemstones and abrasives. Necklaces studded with red garnets adorned the pharaohs of ancient Egypt. Signet rings in ancient Rome featured garnet intaglios that were used to stamp the wax that secured important documents. The clergy and nobility of the Middle Ages had a preference for red garnets.

Garnet is actually a group of several minerals. Five of these – pyrope, almandine, spessartine, grossular and andradite – are important as gems. Pyrope and almandine range from purple to red. Spessartine is found in exciting oranges and yellows, while andradite is mostly yellow to green (the gem variety demantoid). Grossular may have the widest range, from colourless through yellow to reddish orange and orangy red, as well as a strong vibrant green called tsavorite.

The Smithsonian’s antique pyrope hair comb is one of the most famous pieces of garnet jewellery (pyrope is from the Greek *pyrōpos*, which means “fiery-eyed”). A large rose-cut garnet sits at the crest, much like a queen serenely surveying her court. The pyrope garnets that decorate this tiara-like jewel came from the historic mines in Bohemia (now part of the Czech Republic), and these rich red beauties were extremely popular during the Victorian era (1837–1901), when this piece was fashioned.

According to Indian astrology, garnet helps eliminate negative feelings (depression, guilt) and instil greater self-confidence and mental clarity to promote creative thinking and peace of mind. In ancient and medieval times, gems like garnet were also thought to be remedies for inflammatory diseases and to soothe the angry heart.



The different types of garnet range between 6.5 and 7.5 on the Mohs scale of hardness. This means that this birthstone is more susceptible to damage than rubies, sapphires and diamonds. So while not all garnets are good candidates for daily wear, they are ideal for earrings, brooches and pendants. Give thought to how you store your garnet jewelry. If you let it rub against harder gems – again, think diamonds, rubies and sapphires – it can be scratched. And in turn garnet can scratch softer gems, such as opals or pearls. <https://www.gia.edu/birthstones/january-birthstones>

### Words of Wisdom

“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn. -*Benjamin Franklin*

## February Birthdays – Amethyst

### Happy Birthday to:

Kathy Schlegl  
Robert Owens  
Hans Bleeker

### Amethyst

If you were born in February, your birthstone is amethyst – the purple variety of quartz that has captivated mankind for millennia. Its lilac to deep purple hues can be cut into many shapes and sizes, and it can be manufactured in a lab as well as mined. Amethyst, the February birthstone, can be found in the collections of royal families throughout Europe and Asia. Now it's within reach of most consumers. Consider buying a stunning amethyst for the king or queen of your heart – or treat yourself to a royal present. If your birthday is in February, then wearing an amethyst can also be a symbol of personal empowerment and inner strength.



The name “amethyst” derives from the Greek amethystos, which means “a remedy against drunkenness,” a benefit long ascribed to the purple birthstone. Because of its wine-like colour, early Greek mythology associated the gem with Bacchus, the god of wine. Amethyst was also believed to keep the wearer clear headed and quick witted in battle and business affairs. Renaissance Europeans thought it calmed lovers overrun by passion.

Amethyst is the gem traditionally given for the sixth wedding anniversary. Wear it in celebration of your wedding nuptials or as your February birthstone and you'll be in royal company: Catherine the Great (Empress Catherine II of Russia, 1729–1796) had a penchant for the gem and decked herself in amethyst necklaces, earrings and other ornaments. The famous jewellery connoisseur Wallis, Duchess of Windsor (1896–1986), made a memorable statement when she wore a lavish Cartier-designed amethyst bib necklace to a gala in Versailles in 1953.



Historically, royals have admired the deep purple hue of the February birthstone since at least the days of Alexander the Great. Amethyst lore also includes several claims to mystical powers, including that it would convey strength and wit to those who wore it. If you celebrate a February birthday, wearing an amethyst can be a symbol of personal empowerment and inner strength.

Amethyst is a 7 on the Mohs scale of hardness. This means that it is appropriate for daily use in rings and other jewellery, but over time it may show wear and require repolishing. Because this February birthstone is more susceptible to damage than harder gems such as rubies, sapphires and diamonds, you risk scratching your amethyst jewellery if you place it next to these harder stones...

Heat treatment is the most common technique for improving the colour and marketability of natural amethyst. Heat treatment can't make pale amethyst darker, but it can lighten the colour of very dark amethyst and make it more attractive. It can also remove unwanted brownish inclusions in some amethysts. Some amethyst turns yellow – to citrine – with heat treatment.

Heat treating amethyst results in a permanent change in colour. However, submitting it to intense heat may render it slightly more brittle than usual, and care must be taken not to damage pointed faceted corners and sharp edges. Note, too, that excessive heat can remove the colour entirely, and some amethyst fades with prolonged exposure to strong light. Though the colour is stable with normal use, this is not a birthstone to wear to the beach every day.

Amethyst birthstone jewellery can be cleaned with an ultrasonic cleaner, but steam cleaning is not recommended. A soft brush with mild soap is the safest option. <https://www.gia.edu/birthstones/february-birthstones>


## What's On .... Or Not ?


Events are generally from the Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW <http://www.gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au/events/>  
 Other contributions or back issue requests may be made to [ctownlapidaryclub.editor@gmail.com](mailto:ctownlapidaryclub.editor@gmail.com).  
 Alternately, download back issues from the Club's website, . <http://www.campbelltownlapidary.org.au/>.  
 We are grateful for any and all submissions.

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
<i>Please note</i> all events are subject to rules and restrictions relating to Covid-19 pandemic.		
11 -13 March 2022	<b>Minerama, Glen Innes</b>  <i>Fossicking Gem &amp; Jewellery Show</i>	For more info: <a href="https://www.minerama.com.au">https://www.minerama.com.au</a>
Sat 12 – Mon 14 March 2022	<b>Canberra Lapidary Club</b> <b>2022 Rock Swap</b> <b>Entry Free</b>	<b>Venue:</b> Exhibition Park (EPIC) Parrot Park  Sales Fossickers & dealers selling : Minerals, crystals, jewellery, rough & cut gemstones, opals, fossils. Food Available  Other * Sieve for Sapphires * Pan for Gold <b>See Flyer attached</b>
19 March 2022	<b>Campbelltown District Lapidary Club</b>  <i>Open Day</i> <b>Time:</b> 9 am – 2 pm <b>Entry:</b> Free	<b>Venue:</b> Lot 1 Bensley Road, Macquarie Fields  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crystals, gems, roughs, minerals</li> <li>• Handcrafted jewellery, and market stalls,</li> <li>• Readers, Reiki,</li> <li>• Tasty Greek treats, cold drinks</li> </ul>
19 – 20 March 2022	<b>New England Lapidary and Fossicking Club Inc</b>  <i>31<sup>st</sup> Annual Gem and Craft Show</i> <b>Time:</b> 9 am – 5 pm Saturday 9 am – 3 pm Sunday <b>Entry:</b> Free	<b>Venue:</b> Armidale Show Ground  For more info phone: Mick on 6778 5122 or Jenny on 0407 222 425, or email: <a href="mailto:nelfc@hotmail.com">nelfc@hotmail.com</a> <b>See Flyer attached</b>
20 March, 2022	<b>Illawarra Lapidary Club Inc –</b>  <i>Rock Swap</i>  <b>Time:</b> 8 am – 2 pm	<b>Venue:</b> Stuart Park, George Hanley Drive, North Wollongong.  <b>More info</b> at: <a href="http://www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au/">http://www.illawarralapidaryclub.com.au/</a> or like us on Facebook  <b>See Flyer attached</b>

*Have fun, take care and stay safe!*

		
<b>2022 Gem Shows</b> <b>Canberra Lapidary Club Inc.</b> Web : <a href="http://www.canberralapidary.org.au">www.canberralapidary.org.au</a> Email : <a href="mailto:canberralapidary@gmail.com">canberralapidary@gmail.com</a> Ph : 02 6260 5322 (Workshop)		
<b>Rock Swap</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Sat 12 - Sun 13 - Mon 14</b> March 2022	
<b>Venue</b>	Exhibition Park (EPIC) – <b>Parrot Park</b>	
<b>Entry</b>	<b>Free</b>	
<b>Sales</b>	<b>Fossickers &amp; dealers selling :</b> Minerals, crystals, jewellery, rough & cut gemstones, opals, fossils. <b>Food Available</b>	
<b>Other</b>	* Sieve for Sapphires      * Pan for Gold	
<b>Winter &amp; Spring</b>		
<b>Gemcraft &amp; Mineral Shows</b>		
<b>Winter Show :</b>	Sat 21 May Sun 22 May	10am to 5pm 10am to 4pm
<b>Spring Show :</b>	Sat 29 Oct Sun 30 Oct	10am to 5pm 10am to 4pm
<b>Venue</b>	Exhibition Park (EPIC) - Mallee Pavilion	
<b>Entry</b>	<b>\$7 Adults   \$12 Family   \$4 Concession</b> <b>Free</b> Children to Age 16	
<b>Sales</b>	<b>Gem, Mineral, Jewellery &amp; Lapidary dealers</b> Minerals, fossils, jewellery, rough & cut gemstones, crystals, opals, beads. <b>Food available</b>	
<b>Other</b>	Displays of members' collections. Demonstrations of cabbing & faceting. Age of Fishes Museum – Information & Fossil Exhibits	

		
<b>New England Lapidary</b> and <b>Fossicking Club inc.</b> <b>31st ANNUAL GEM AND CRAFT SHOW</b> <b>ARMIDALE SHOWGROUND</b> <b>Saturday March 19th 2022 9am - 5pm</b> <b>Sunday March 20th 2022 9am - 3pm</b> <i>See a spectacular array of:</i> <b>Gems, Rocks, Crystals, Jewellery, Crafts</b> <b>Beads &amp; Lapidary Books/Supplies/Equipment</b> <b>and much more</b> <i>All on sale at the show</i> Raffle Tickets \$1.00 Great prizes B.B.Q Breakfast & Lunch/Light Refreshments Available <b>FREE ENTRY</b> Phone: Mick....67785122 Phone: Jenni....0407222425 email: <a href="mailto:nelfc@hotmail.com">nelfc@hotmail.com</a>		

		
<b>ILLAWARRA LAPIDARY CLUB INC</b> <b>ROCK SWAP</b> <b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2022</b> <b>Stuart Park, North Wollongong</b> <b>8 am to 2 pm</b> <b>Stalls selling</b> <b>Crystals, Minerals, Fossils,</b> <b>and Jewellery</b> <b>Equipment and Books</b> Covid-13 Plan will be in place see Website for details <a href="https://www.illawarralapidaryclub.com/covid-13/">https://www.illawarralapidaryclub.com/covid-13/</a>		
